(b) whether any assessment on strategic petroleum reserves has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The stocks of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies (including those in transit) are sufficient to provide for a cover for around two months for major petroleum products, except for LPG for which the cover is around one month.

(b) and (c) In addition to the existing crude oil and product storages available with the oil companies, the Government is contemplating to provide strategic tankage for crude oil gradually in phases with a view to achieve 45 days covers.

Potential of oil and gas in Himalayan Region

†73. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of Government has now been drawn to the potentiality of oil and gas in the Himalayan region as per scientific data regarding presence of petrol and gas in that area; and

(b) if so, the details of amount likely to be spent on this and for how may years this programme is likely to go on and by when the success is likely to be achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Since last 50 years, National Oil Companies (NOCs), namely Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), have carried out exploration activities in the Himalayan region with the basic objective of identifying prospective areas for hydrocarbons. During Tenth Plan, NOCs, have envisaged acquisition of 425 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2 D seismic data and drill 3 exploratory wells in this region, with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 83 crores. In addition, Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH) has planned for an aeromagnetics survey in the Himalayan region and Ganga

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

basin for carving out exploration blocks for offer under the future round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), with an expenditure of around Rs. 6 crores. The success of above plans depends on the results of exploration, for which no time frame can be laid down.

Government's share in oil exploration by private companies

†74. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism evolved for ascertaining the share of Government and private sector in exploitation of oil and gas reserves, being explored by private sector;

(b) the quantity and places of oil and gas explored by each of the companies of private sector so far; and

(c) by when such exploitation is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The mechanism for ascertaining the share of Government and private sector in exploitation of oil and gas reserves, being explored by private sector, is provided in the respective Production Sharing Contracts. The contractors thereunder are entitled to recover contract costs out of total volume of petroleum produced and saved from the contract area, after deduction of applicable levies. The share of profit of Government and the contractor companies in the financial year is calculated on an annual basis depending on the tranches of Investment Multiples actual achieved and as bid for by the companies at the end of the preceding financial year.

(b) Details of the oil/gas discoveries made by private/Joint Venture companies so far is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Gas production has already started from Ravva Satellite Gas Discovery and Lakshmi Gas Discovery. Oil/gas exploitation from other discoveries is an ongoing process depending upon further appraisal/establishment of commercial viability and subsequent development by the operator.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.